

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02168 212153Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MILL, HA

SUBJECT: GENERAL RAYMOND FORMALLY RETIRED FROM HAITIAN
ARMED FORCES AND PENSIONED; POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS

1. LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 21 REPORTS TEXT OF OFFICIAL DECREE IN WHICH LT.GEN. CLAUDE RAYMOND, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF HAITIAN ARMED FORCES AND CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, FORMALLY RETIRED FROM ARMED FORCES (MIS A LA RETRAITE) EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 1973, AND GRANTED PENSION OF \$350 A MONTH. RAYMOND, APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF IN NOVEMBER 1970, WAS REPLACED BY LT.GEN. JEAN-BAPTISTE HILAIRE AND PACKED OFF AS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN IN WIDE-RANGING GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY SHAKE-UP THIS PAST AUGUST.

2. COMMENT: IN RECENT WEEKS THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN HAITI HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY CALM AND UNEVENTFUL, AS PRESIDENT DUVALIER AND LEADING CABINET MINISTERS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN BENDING THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURING SUCCESS OF REGIONAL SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS (WHICH ENDED DECEMBER 18), COPING WITH PETROLEUM SUPPLY CUTBACKS, AND GETTING MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ENVISAGED FOR 1974 ON THE RAILS. THE FORMAL PUBLIC RETIREMENT OF GEN. RAYMOND, HOWEVER, WILL RECEIVE SPECULATION HERE OF IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES, PARTICULARLY FOCUSSED ON RAYMOND'S BROTHER, FOREIGN SECRETARY ADRIEN RAYMOND. IN FACT, IN RECENT WEEKS HIGH-
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PAGE 02 PORT A 02168 212153Z

LEVEL SOURCES IN THE GOH HAVE CONFIRMED THAT REPLACEMENT

OF RAYMOND AND BRIG. GEN. BRETON CLAUDE, THE LAST TWO ASSOCIATES OF FORMER STRONGMAN LUCKNER CAMBRONNE STILL IN HIGH POSITION IN THE GOH, IS QUITE POSSIBLE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE AT ALL SURPRISED IF RAYMOND, AND PERHAPS BRETON CLAUDE AS WELL, WERE REPLACED SOMETIME AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT ANTONIO ANDRE, WHO HAS BEEN COMPLAINING BITTERLY TO ALL AND SUNDRY OF HIS DIFFERENCES WITH THE PALACE AND VARIOUS CABINET MINISTERS, MAY ALSO BE REPLACED IN A JANUARY PERSONNEL RESHUFFLE. ADRIEN RAYMOND, IF REPLACED, MAY WELL BE APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, VICE THE RECENTLY-DISMISSED FERN BAGUIDY.
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